

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 12 to correct a minor typographical error.

Applicants have amended claim 30 to recite a clarified version of the "provided that" clause from claim 43. Applicants have therefore cancelled claim 43.

None of these amendments adds new matter.

The Office Action

The Examiner has indicated that applicants' December 3, 2004 response was in improper format under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 for repeating an amendment that was already entered. The Examiner has also indicated that claim 12 was improperly marked as being "Previously Presented" because claim 12 was being amended. It is applicants understanding that claim 12 should be amended herein, but that no other previous amendments should be made. Applicants will gladly make further modifications to the amendment format, if and when it is necessary.

The Rejections35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 43 stands rejected as being indefinite for "failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention." The Examiner contends that it is not clear whether the "provided that" clause applies to only the "heterocyclic group" or also the "heterocyclylaklyl group" in the R definition. Applicants have cancelled claim 43 and recited an amended version of the "provided that" clause claim 30, the claim that 43 depended from. Accordingly, applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this § 112, second paragraph rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 8, 12, 16, 17, 30, and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohmoto et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,136,834). Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ohmoto. Applicants believe that the Examiner will consider that the amendment of claim 30 and the cancellation of claim 43 obviate all of these § 102(e) and § 103(a) rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicants request that the Examiner enter the above amendments, consider the foregoing remarks, and allow the pending claims to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at any time.

Respectfully submitted,



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